REMARKS

1.   In response to the Office Action mailed October 26, 2004, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration. Claims 1-20 were originally presented for examination. In the outstanding Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected. Claims 1-20 have been amended. Claims 5, 15 and 20 have been canceled and no claim have been added in this paper. Thus, upon entry of this paper, claims 1-4, 6-14 and 16-20 will be pending in this application. Of these seventeen (17) claims, three (3) claims (claim 1, 14 and 17) are independent. Based on the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding objections and rejections be reconsidered, and that they be withdrawn.

Art of Record

2.   Applicants acknowledge receipt of form PTO-892 identifying additional references made of record by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections

3.   Claims 1-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,243 to Kulkarni, *et al.* (hereinafter, "Kulkarni") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,295,527 to McCormack, *et al.* (hereinafter, "McCormack"). Based upon the above Amendments and following Remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections.

4.   Kulkarni is directed to providing tools for maintaining, viewing, and managing the physical and logical topology of a network. The system maintains databases for both logical and physical topology using an improved data model. Users are able to access the data through the physical topology database. Both physical and logical topology data resides in the database. (*See*, Kulkarni, col. 2, lns. 2-11.)

5.   A typical screen display available to a user of the network management system of Kulkarni is provided in Fig 2 of Kulkarni. As shown, the system will display a viewer 201 in which the topology of the system (logical or physical) may be displayed. Nowhere does Kulkarni disclose, teach or suggest Applicants' invention as recited in the amended claims

above. Taking claim 1 as an example, Kulkarni fails to disclose, teach or suggest "receiving at least one filter comprising filter criteria; retrieving network device information related to one or more network devices in one or more networks which satisfy said filter criteria; and creating for display on a single display page a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguishable from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation, wherein each of said at least one network segment comprises at least one of said one or more network devices which satisfy said filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire. " (*See*, amended claim 1, above.)

6.   In fact, the Examiner acknowledges that Kulkarni fails to disclose selecting a filter as claimed. It follows, then, that Kulkarni also fails to disclose "retrieving network device information related to...network devices...which satisfy said filter criteria" and "creating for display on a single display page a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguishable from any other at least one network segment..., wherein each...network segment comprises at least one of the...network devices which satisfy said filter criteria and, which are physically connected to a same wire."

7.   The Examiner asserts that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention would have been motivated to combine the teachings of McCormack with Kulkarni to arrive at the present invention. Without addressing the merits of whether such a combination would include Applicants' claimed invention, Applicants respectfully assert that there is no suggestion in the art of record to combine such references. The Examiner asserts that such motivation is found in the inherent teachings of Kulkarni with regard to alarms. However, alarms are included in the variety of additional information that may be displayed in addition to the topology maps of Kulkarni. The alarms do not filter the nodes that are displayed such that only a segment with the nodes that satisfy the filter criteria and are located on that one segment are displayed. For at least these reasons Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

8.   Independent claim 14, as amended, recites "[a] network management node connected to one or more networks, said network management node comprising: a

plurality of modules stored on a computer readable medium; and a database storing information related to a plurality of network devices in said one or more networks, wherein said plurality of modules are operable to receive filter information including at least one selected filter; retrieve network device information based on said filter information from said database; and create a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguishable from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation, wherein each of said at least one network segment comprises at least one of said one or more network devices which satisfy said filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire." (*See*, amended claim 14, above.) For at least the same reasons as those noted above, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 14 is patentable over the art of record.

9.   Independent claim 17, as amended, recites "[a] computer readable medium on which is embedded a program, the program performing a method for providing information related to one or more networks, the method comprising: receiving filter information including at least one selected filter; retrieving network device information based on said filter information, said network device information being related to one or more network devices in said one or more networks; and creating a visual representation of said network device information, said visual representation including at least one network segment each visually distinguishable from any other at least one network segment included in the visual representation, wherein each of said at least one network segment comprises at least one of said one or more network devices which satisfy said filter criteria, and which is physically connected to a same wire." (*See*, amended claim 17, above.) For at least the same reasons as those noted above, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 17 is patentable over the art of record.
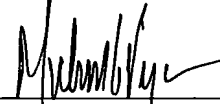
Dependent Claims

10.   The dependent claims incorporate all of the subject matter of their respective independent claims and add additional subject matter which makes them a fortiori and independently patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the outstanding rejections of the dependent claims be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Conclusion

11.   In view of the foregoing, this application should be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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